

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 38-40 are added. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

In the Office Action claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as the claims are asserted to contain subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the invention. In response, it is submitted that the claimed holding circuit is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to be an example of the latch circuit as described in the specification. For example, independent claim 1 recites that the holding circuit is connected to the global bit line and holds data to be written into the memory cells. This is consistent with the description of the latch circuit throughout the specification. For example, from page 10, line 21 to page 11, line 7, page 18, lines 9-17 and page 20, lines 15-27 of the specification describe the latch circuit as holding data to be written into memory cells. For these reasons it is asserted that the originally filed specification describes the claimed latch circuit in such a way that one of ordinary skill in the art is enabled to make and use the latch circuit.

Notwithstanding the above discussion, the specification is amended to state that a holding circuit is an example of a latch circuit.

For these reasons it is requested that the rejection of claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as there are no remaining grounds of rejection for claims 1-37, and new claims 38-40 depend from these claims, allowance of claims 1-40 is requested.

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Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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